

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2986 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop a letter grading methodology for sewer systems and sewage treatment plant performance and annually issue a letter grade for facility performance. The bill also would require the SWRCB to make specified regulatory information available to the public through the internet.

While I support actions to reduce sewage spills and improve the performance of community wastewater infrastructure, this bill would result in significant annual costs while providing little real benefit. This bill would result in costs of up to \$3.5 million annually. These costs would be paid through increased fees on local agencies. These monies would be better spent by the local agencies to fund system improvements and increase system inspection and monitoring, rather than the creation of a letter grading system.

Additionally, the SWRCB recently adopted a statewide general permit requiring publicly-owned wastewater collection systems to implement detailed reporting and sewer system management plans. This program was designed to improve performance of sewage collection systems, ensure timely reporting of sanitary sewer outflows, and identify system improvements needed to prevent future accidents. We need to let these requirements be implemented and assess their success before implementing additional burdens on these local agencies.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger